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MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter No. 32
January, 1977

The Spring meeting will be held at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts on April 23, 1977

The Fall meeting of the Chapter wss held at Williams College on October 30, 1976. Persons attending: Mary M. Ankudewich, Smith College; Dorothy M. Bognar, U. Conn.; Mrs. Russell Bosquet, Berkshire Athenaeum; Patricia B. M. Brennan, Kathleen Brown, Bates; Kathryn Burnett, Smith College; William W. Chase, Connecticutt College; Catherine Collins, U. Mass.; Robert L. Cunningham, Smith College; Mary Davidson, Wellesley College; Dena J. Epstein, University of Chicago; Michael Esman, Plymouth State College; Sally Evans, Amherst College; Robert Evensen, Brandeis University; Edith Godel, Western Connecticut State College; Brenda Chasen Goldman, Tufts University; Dena M. Janson, Rhode Island College; Mary Ann Knight, Berkshire Athenaeum; Frances Koblich, Springfield City Library; Irwin Krauss, New York Public Library; Georgianna LaRosèe, Milton Public Library; Mary Lou Little, Harvard University; Robert Loud, Concord Free Public Library; Pricilla McCarty, Bowdoin College; Gertrude Martin, Wheaton College; Douglas B. Moore; Jean A. Morrow; Michael Ochs, Simmons College; Diane Ota, Boston Public Library; Geraldine Ostrove, New England Conservatory; Kenneth Pristash, New England Conservatory; Kenneth Roberts, Williams College; Suzanne Rubin, Berkshire Atheneaum; Joseph W. Scott, Connecticut College; Sally Wilson, Rhode Island College; Philip Youngholm, Wellesley Free Library.

The first speaker was Mr. Richard Belanger from the Sound Archives of Boston Public Library.

One of the 1st sound archives, Vienna Phonogramm Archive, was started in 1899 in Vienna. Others were founded in Berlin (1905), Paris (1911) and Copenhagen (1913). The British Institute of Recorded Sound was founded in 1948 and contains over 100,000 records, none of which are popular. In the United States there are sound archives at Yale, Stanford and New York (The Rogers and Hammerstein Archive, which consists of 80-90,000 cataloged items, and the Carnegie Institute of Recorded Sound). The Library of Congress's sound archive started primarily as a folk-lore collection, now it has copies of all U. S. copy righted discs.

Preservation and Storage. The most exhaustive study on the preservation of sound recordings was done by Pickett and Lemcoe (Pickett, A. G. & Lemcoe, M.M. Preservation and storage of sound recordings. U. S. Govt. Printing Off. 1959) and updated by Ida Rosen. A good article on shelving and storage is Phonorecord preservation: notes of a pragmatist. Special Libraries 62:357-6.S'71. Hall recommends storing sound recordings at 60-70°F; Pickett and Lemcoe at 65-75°F. Hall says that air conditioning with dust filters is a must; but air conditioning may be detrimental to certain types of discs and cylinders. For shelving Pickett and Lemcoe recommend 15" x 15" x 15" shelving. New York Public uses shelf dividers no less than 8" apart. Record must stand straight. Sealable Kraft paper, aluminum and vinal envelopes for storing discs are available from Hollinger. Wax cylinders are destroyed by air conditioning and moisture. They should not be stored in sliding drawers or touching each other.

The Sound Archives at Boston Public Library has over 160,00 items. Records have obtained on standing order from Columbia and RCA Victor since 1928. None of the items are cataloged, they are shelved by manufacturer's number and accessed through the Schwann Catalog. To catalog them by LC standards would take 20-25 years An alternate cataloging procedure has been developed. Each label of each record is photographed to create a master 3 x 5 card. As many copies as necessary are made of each master. It is hoped to begin a pilot project in November. Any ideas on the subject are welcome.

There is a problem of distinguishing reissues of a recording as this information is not always brought out on a record jacket. The July 1972 issue of Library Trends is dedicated to the problems of sound archives.

Diane Ota then introduced Professor Richard Sweeney Halsey from SUNY, Albany.

Dr. Halsey began by noting the decline of sensory accuracy. Audio perception in our environment has declined substantially since 1776. It is now impossible to get away from noise, with resulting physiological and psychological effects. The power to converse has been largely lost. Four factors that affect your hearing are: sex, age, health, and temperament. The design of the listening room and the design of the speaker also affect the listening environment. Libraries want a low articulation index with sound that does not carry.

Sound equipment used by libraries tends to be compromised by a dependence on standard sources, limited knowledge and state imposed buying guidelines. Schools and public libraries have different standards than the home. Further variables are introduced by the type of music to be listened to, who will be listening, and where the listening will be done. Good guides to audio-visual equipment are: Audio-visual Equipment Directory: Audio (especially the Oct. 1976 issue) and Library Technology Reports.

In purchasing equipment, talk with at least three other institutions who have similar requirements and ask who were their equipment vendors and were they satisfactory. Once you decide on a vendor, talk to at least three other institutions who have used this vendor. Try to keep all purchasing with one vendor - no subcontracting. Equipment reviews are found in the following publications: Audio, Absolute Sound, Consumer Reports, Educational Products Information Exchange, Gramophone, High Fidelity, Stereo Review, and Library Technical reports.

The meeting then adjourned for a tour of the Sawyer Undergraduate Library, luncheon at the Faculty Club, and a tour of the Chapin Library of Rare Books.

The Business meeting began at 3 p.m.

I. D. Janson, Sec./Treasurer reported a bank balance of $533.54.

II. The Secretary's report of the last meeting was approved.

III. Dena Epstein reported that local chapter constitutions should not conflict with the National Music Library Association constitution. Local chapters should support their own activities. Grant support is being looked into.

IV. A cataloging workshop was held April 10, 1976 at Adams Library, Rhode Island College. Robert Cunningham, Sally Evans, and Robert Loud served on the panel. The purpose of the workshop was to keep librarians aware of new problems in the cataloging of music. A report of the workshop and bibliography of pertinent works was distributed to all attendees, and Chapter and National officers. Anyone who desires a copy please contact Robert Cunningham, Werner Josten Library, Smith College, Northampton, Ma.

Robert Cunningham, Sally Evans and Robert Loud would be willing to serve on a panel for another cataloging workshop in April, 1977. While previous workshops have not been held under formal auspices of the Chapter, such formal auspices are now desired. A motion was made and recorded that the Chapter sponsor a workshop. The motion passed. Discussions followed as to the location and topic for the workshop. A location in western Massachusetts or Connecticut is preferred. The possibility of the topic for the workshop being the cataloging of music via OCLC was discussed. Mary Lou Little said that NELINET would probably be holding music cataloging workshops. It was concluded to hold a workshop in April with a topic yet to be decided.

V. Questionnaires have already been sent out with issue no.31 of the Newsletter for the 5th edition of the Directory of Music Librarians in New England. The motion was made and seconded to go ahead with the 5th edition. The motion passed. The Directory is to include MLA members and people associated with music libraries. if you need a copy of the questionnaire, please see Dena Janson.

VI. New volunteers are needed for committees. If you are interested, please contact Diane Ota or any executive board member.

VII. New places are needed to hold Chapter meetings. If you know of a place, please contact Diane Ota or Robert Evensen.

VIII. There was no new business.

The business meeting adjourned to a visit to the Clark Art Institute and its research library followed by a sherry hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Janson

Dena M. Janson
Sec./Treas.

FLASH: Music Cataloging Workshop
May 7, 1977, Saturday
Pittsfield Public Library
Pittsfield, Mass.

For more information watch next Newsletter or contact:
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Smith College
Northampton, Mass. 01063

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